

LOOKING AHEAD

CANADIAN POST-WAR AFFAIRS: DISCUSSION MANUAL No. 1

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Government
Publications



AS WE'LL FIND IT



FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

Why This Material?

For many of us the fighting is now over. Soon we will be taking up our lives in Canada as civilians again.

But during these past years all of us have lost touch with Canada and civilian life to a greater or less degree. While away we have not been able to keep abreast of what has been going on at home. Living in uniform for so long, we have lost many of our civilian ways of thought and action.

In order that we may ease our way more readily into civilian life it is necessary to brush up on what has taken place in our absence. We shall examine the courses of action open to us in order that we may make the most of our future. It is not only a matter of dealing with the immediate personal problems of fitting into home, job, and community; we shall also have to deal sensibly with the big national and international problems which influence the lives of us all.

This material aims to give the facts upon which reasoned discussion of the problems ahead may be based. Only through action based on knowledge can we avoid the mistakes of the past.

Victory has given us the opportunity to decide what the future shall be. After suffering so much to gain it, we do not wish to lose that opportunity through ignorance.

The Pattern of the Course

This course, then, is concerned with helping the fighter to see the picture which will confront him upon his re-entry into civilian life. Booklets are planned as follows:

1. "*Home As We'll Find It*"—the present one.
2. "*The Job We've Done*"—what we are capable of as a nation.
3. "*The Coming Job*"—which covers the rehabilitation and reconstruction programs and the individual's responsibility in them.

4. "*Canadian Hurdles*"—the social, political, and economic problems which we will have to solve.

5. "*Government . . . by the People*"—the means whereby we can organize with others under the democratic system to promote our rights and discharge our responsibilities.

The Pattern of This Booklet

There are six chapters to this first booklet.

1. **FIRST IMPRESSIONS.** Going home? What is it really like? Are civilians human? Why do things seem changed?

2. **THE FAMILY.** Did the war come home? Who's changed? What have they been saying? 1939's children—are they children still? Veteran at home—"has-been" or "will-be"?

3. **OLD FRIENDS—NEW FRIENDS.** Who wants a parade? Where have they all gone? How about new friends? What did the war show us?

4. **HOUSING SHORTAGE.** Why not enough houses?

5. **GETTING DOWN TO WORK.** Does service life fit us for civvy work? Why should we choose our own jobs? What is it like to do civvy work?

6. **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO US?** Summary.

These chapters do not contain the answers to all the questions which might be raised concerning the topic. They do, however, afford a sound factual basis for discussion.

What is Provided In the Chapters

Each chapter proceeds by a series of questions which form the headings of the sections. The material which follows each question is roughly the amount which should be introduced into the discussion at any one time. Under each question the relevant points for discussion are tabulated in the margin in brief form.

How You Can Use the Chapters

It is not intended that each chapter should form the basis of one discussion. Since all units and services will not have the same amount of time, you will have to fit the material to your own needs.

It is not necessary to cover all the material in the order given. You may select, rearrange, and supplement the subject matter as you think best for your group. But to do so takes skill. If you have not the required experience you will find it best to take the main section

headings, or some of them, to form the framework for the session. Select what you want of the information tabulated under each and you will have a manageable scheme.

Some Methods of Approach

The three general methods of handling a session are the lecture, the lesson, and the discussion. The lecture and the lesson are dealt with only briefly below since they are familiar techniques. The discussion method is treated in more detail both because it may seem more difficult to handle, and because it is particularly suited for use with this material and your men.

THE LECTURE: is useful in getting across a lot of information in a short time. But unless it is carefully planned and ably executed the audience may not retain much of the instruction.

THE LESSON: is mainly constructed for two-way traffic of question and answer between you and the group. It is a slower method than the lecture but is very thorough and more enduring in effect.

THE DISCUSSION: is best for a group of 20 or less. With experience, a leader may conduct a successful discussion in a group twice that size. But it is better to divide into smaller groups if possible. The smaller the number the better the results will be. These booklets are arranged primarily with the discussion group in mind.

10 Steps in Organized Discussion

- 1** Decide how much material you are going to cover in the time available.
- 2** Divide the material into a number of topics to be taken one at a time. The scope of each topic is chiefly limited by your ability to keep the discussion on the rails.
- 3** Decide what should be the *average* length of time devoted to each topic—a matter of simple division of whole time by number of topics. Of course some are more important or more interesting than others.
- 4** The first tasks in introducing a topic are to indicate (a) how it relates to what has been said and done, (b) what is at its centre, and (c) what are the boundaries dividing it from the other topics you will be discussing. This means you have to know, yourself.

The second stage is to get the members of your group to contribute facts and opinions within the area under discussion. Try to get the greatest possible number of contributors, and the greatest possible number of facts. Some tact is required to keep the talk within the boundary. Some familiarity with the subject is required to judge borderline cases.

5

The leader may have to contribute facts which are important but were overlooked. Brief notes, or the headings and marginal guides in the booklet, will help.

6

The members of the group should be invited to ask questions that may be on their minds about what has been said to date on the topic. Specialized questions of no interest to most of the group will be settled after the session.

7

The group leader should round out the whole picture in just enough words to crystallize the group's achievement in the minds of its members.

8

The leader should then proceed to show how this topic leads logically to the next, and repeat the treatment from step No. 4, on that topic.

9

At the end of a discussion period, a few seconds to sum up the day's achievements are well spent. Questions too broad to be dealt with under any single topic belong here.

10

Vary the Method

The leader may occasionally introduce variety by using the other two methods of presentation—lecture and lesson. It may be necessary to lecture when introducing information which is completely new. Or you might have one of the men who has special knowledge on the problem under discussion do the job for you.

Where possible make the discussion timely by relating it to the latest news or a recent film. Excellent use may be made of difficulties and successes shared by your group or experienced by members of it, to lead to discussion of difficulties and possibilities facing all of us. Above all be simple, personal, and concrete.

Why are we Taking Another Course?

The German is licked. That was our objective in Europe. And we have done well. The courses we took in the Service contributed to our victory. But now that the job is finished, what has the Service to offer? First, the explanation that there are not enough trucks, ships, trains or jinrickshaws to send us all packing home at once, so we will have to go out in order, just as we came in, and have done nearly everything since.

In the meantime, we are offered opportunities to brush up in our trades; fill up the gaps in our education that we think need filling; and perhaps to find out a little about how the people among whom we are living carry on their normal, peaceful lives, by helping as we can to restore those lives.

But while we spend the time afforded for education, vocational training programs, and sharing a bit in the filling up of the craters the war has made, we shall have one eye on the future. A great deal of our spare time has already been spent telling each other about jobs, about our families, our friends, and our home towns. Often this led to larger topics: what we want Canada to be like, and what we would do to reshape the world. Much of what we have seen in the Service has shown up flaws in the present set-up at home, and abroad. This course is our last opportunity as a unit to look at that set-up a little more systematically. When we have done that, our ideas on how to improve it will carry more weight.

TRAINING
FOR
PEACE

RESTORATION

EXAMINING
THE
SET-UP
TOGETHER

FIRST IMPRESSIONS



Going Home? Why do you Like the Idea?

When the talk gets around to going home — and when doesn't it—you find that there is some particular thing each man looks forward to. Maybe it is being able to eat his fill of all the things he hasn't had in five years, lying late in bed on Sundays (perhaps with his wife), filling the car full of gas and covering miles of highway or heading for some lonely place to indulge in peace and solitude.

COMFORT

LEISURE

RECREATION
AND
QUIET

In many cases the thoughts of home revolve about the things that used to be. One kind of man seems sure that once he walks the streets of the home town again and sees the old familiar faces, his troubles will disappear. He takes for granted that when he gets back things will be just as he has pictured them during these weary years.

FRIENDS

What is it Really Like?

But it may not be as easy as all that, as many of us realize. It wasn't easy for many of the repatriated while the war in Europe was still on. Rosy dreams frequently vanish after a very few weeks at home, and some men come to feel disillusioned about the whole thing. Ask the chap who has had a month's leave in Canada what it is like at home. He will probably be keen to get home to stay. On the other hand he may give you a story something like this:

HOME IS
GREAT—
BUT . . .

"Over there they don't know what war is. And a lot of them don't seem to care. I think it might have done them good if they had a few loads of bombs dropped on them." Press this type of fellow for details and he will continue something like this:

A WAR ON?

"Well, as you walk the streets at home you will be struck by the prosperous look about everything. The

PROSPERITY

shops are full of things you can't get in Britain even after queuing up for hours.

"Everyone is working and most everyone appears to be doing well. You can walk into a restaurant and choose from a menu that seems to include everything. Movies, dances, and night clubs are doing a roaring trade. People take all these things for granted and go about their business as if nothing had ever happened."

It is about this point that your wartime repat found his resentment of the civilian population growing. His state of mind wasn't improved when he heard rumours of returned men who had been insulted by civilians.

Nobody seems to recognize Division patches. (Until very recently, for good reasons, they were "secret").

RUMOURS

There is the one about the disabled veteran who had to stand on a crowded street car because no one offered him a seat. (Not that the informant was there himself, you understand).

Another has to do with the soldier who returned to find that the man who took over his old job has obtained an army deferment and was earning twice the pay. (We will have more to say about civilian pay later on.)

These yarns are no more likely to be true than the ones which fly around in the service. But some people still repeat them as gospel.

CANADIAN VS. BRITISHER

It isn't long until this type is contrasting bitterly the attitude of the Canadian civilian with that of the Britisher who knows what war means and appreciates what the fighting man has done. In his comparison the Canadian doesn't come out so well.

"No", our veteran repeats, "they don't know what war is".

SPARK PLUG QUESTIONS

(NOTE: It may be hard to get the talk in a "cold" group hitting on all six, or eight or twelve, as the case may be. In such a fix, the discussion leader may use a question that sounds almost painfully simple, in order to ignite the fuel of differences which will always be present in a group. If necessary, one

of the questions printed in italics throughout the Course may be put directly to a member of the group who is thought likely to warm up first.)

Why do you want to go home?

What are you looking forward to most?

Do you think that life at home will have changed while you were away?
How?

Are Civilians Slackers?

How much is there in what this earlier repat says? Ask a different Canadian and he would probably say something like this:

"Maybe you are right. Maybe it would have been better if a few buzz-bombs had fallen in Toronto or Montreal or Vancouver. The people at home might have had a better appreciation of the servicemen's point of view.

NO BOMBS
THERE

"But it didn't happen that way — for which I imagine Servicemen are as grateful as any others—so how can you expect the people at home to act as if it did?" This does not mean that everyone at home has been having the time of his life. The millions of people who have sons, husbands, and brothers overseas have known plenty of war anxiety. Every time a letter is late they fear the worst. When the papers tell of sticky fighting and heavy casualties they worry over what may have happened. These folks and plenty more like them worked harder and longer than ever before. There have been just enough of the other kind—the ones who consider their own immediate interests only—to give everyone else a bad name. Who are they? The man who wangles call-up deferments he doesn't deserve; the man who gets his liquor in the black market; the woman who hoards twice the butter she needs—we can pair them off against the stinkers in the forces, the lads who dodged dirty jobs, who created a black market with other people's cigarettes, and so on. There is very little to choose between them. But we do not pass judgment on a unit entirely on the record of a few bums; it would be equally foolish to condemn the civilian population on such a slender margin of scum.

ANXIETY

THE MINORITY

WE HAVE
OUR SHARE

Why do Things Seem Changed?

Civilian life is so much different from what we have been used to that it takes a while to get the idea of it again. Take just a couple of examples:

CIVVY DRILL
DIFFERENT

We are used to doing things almost automatically; the civilian is not. He often ponders, or talks a move over before he acts. We had to learn to click speedily—or else. So we act—and talk the move over afterward, if at all. In the Service someone else was usually paid to do the greater part of the thinking . . .

WE'VE
CHANGED,
TOO

We've got away from the civilian idea of planning things far ahead of time because we never could be sure that there was that much time ahead. When the civilian puts things off we are inclined to think he is stalling; but that is his normal way. He decides for himself *when* he will do *what*, much more often than the Serviceman.

50-50 NEEDED

In a nutshell, as a result of the war we have developed a certain pattern of action, a set of opinions, habits, and attitudes which the people at home do not share simply because they have not shared our training and experiences. To reach an understanding we will have to be prepared to meet each other half way. In time we too shall welcome their greater variety in ways of doing things — without losing our ability to make quick decisions.

NOT ONLY US

Don't think that this state of affairs exists only in Canada. It doesn't. In the U.S. where the civilian population has escaped direct contact with the war, the same situation applies. It was true even of Germany before their war came home to roost.

A newspaper in Konstanz reported some years ago that soldiers on leave could not understand the attitude of the civilians and would have nothing to do with them. The men on leave "seem like foreigners," the paper stated. "Many of them don't speak a word, spending the whole three weeks avoiding everyone."



THE FAMILY 2

Did the War come Home?

Some lad who has been out of the service and back home for a few weeks is heard to remark: "Things at home are away different from when I left!" Others, perhaps from the same town, might say: "Doesn't anything ever happen here?"

Who is right? A lot has been happening at home—even if most of it was dull and uninteresting. His wife, his mother and sister and kid brother have had to find out how to do a lot of jobs he used to do. They've had to guard over the family funds during times when prices have gone up noticeably, and the things they used to buy weren't always to be had.

NEW
DECISIONS
FOR THE
FAMILY
TO MAKE

They have bought billions in Victory Bonds—hundreds of dollars worth each on the average. They may have been urged to take in a war worker or refugee and put him up in the room the warrior left vacant. They may themselves have had to move into smaller quarters. There was often nothing else for soldiers' families to do, if the guns and bacon and all the other things their boys needed overseas were going to get there at all.

Well, a lot of wives and families before the war had never thought of bonds, or full-time jobs or boarders. Suddenly in 1941 or 1942 they had to make up their minds—and perhaps without the help of the ones who usually did most of the deciding.

Aside from finding that little things like meal-times and chores had to be shifted, those in the soldier's family at home found something much more important: they found they were, so to speak "acting-in-command". Being in charge, they really "changed their minds", perhaps without knowing it, whenever they decided to try a new way of doing things.

NEW
RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE
FAMILY

They may have been doing differently for years by the time the veteran gets back—so it's no longer (to them) a New Way. It's become a Habit. They don't notice it, and at first he may not either.

**NEW HABITS
FOR
SERVICEMEN**

Maybe you remember dimly how unhappy you were about changing your habits when you first got into the service—it didn't seem very funny having a bugle for an alarm-clock, or having some other guy turn out your lights on you. But in a way, your change-over was easier than your family's because it was so complete—other quarters, other clothes, other dishes, other faces came at you all at once.

**NEW HABITS
FOR
WORKERS**

But at home, the folks have stared at the same wall-paper, and gone through the same doors all the time—while a lot of their habits have gradually altered. Even if the house is the same, home may have changed a lot, to the fellow who last saw it years ago, from inside a uniform, and today sees it again from inside a civvy suit. It is harder for the folks who still have the same old overalls or aprons on to see it that way. They're likely to go right along as they've been doing all these months—they can't be pushed back to where they were in 1939, just by your coming home, changing your suit, and saying the word.

Peace Begins at Home

**SHARE THE
CHORE**

Well, suppose he feels let down, what's a man to do? It would seem a good idea, before he blows off—about the size of the bank account, the colour of the hall curtains, or the run-down state of the family radio—to do a bit of reconnaissance. Lots of times there's a reason—almost always. He might suggest to the one he blames for this state of affairs that the two of them fix it together. He may have been blaming one person for not having done a two-man job.

**OR TRY IT
YOURSELF**

He may find too, that doing the job is not so easy as "beefing"—that's a very old discovery. Buckling down to a chore he hasn't tried his hand at since before he joined the service, he may find he's got a bit rusty; or, on the other hand, that his service experience makes it easier to do.

Who's Changed?

Now we see a big difference between Rip van Winkle and the veteran who's been away. While they both missed what was going on at home, Rip was asleep in the meantime—the veteran was almost anything but. While Rip only grew a long beard, the man returned from the Forces has grown in a lot of other ways too.

Going places and doing things has changed the veteran's outlook, and that's partly why some doesn't seem the same. Besides, he's forgotten some of the things he left behind.

THE OLD
FAMILIAR
MAY LOOK
ODD

He maybe never noticed before the war the odd way his dad had of filling his pipe, or how long it took the little woman to choose a movie. (But lately he's seen a lot of expert pipe-filling, and may have got used to quick decisions.) Stop to think a minute, and it's obvious the change is in the new civilian, as much as in the old civilians.

What do you Say?

Going out of his way at first to talk things over, will pay off both ways. It gives the veteran a chance to get to know his family again. It will certainly help them to get acquainted with his quirks again too. As far as having changed goes, he and his family are in the same boat.

IT SOON
SEEMS
OKAY

One of the things we got into this war to protect, was our right to speak our minds freely around the dinner-table. It's a privilege that Frenchmen, Dutchmen and Norwegians were uncertain of for years. (Germans discarded their "dinner-table freedom" for twice as long). Having *kept* our freedom of speech, we'd be smart to *use* it to make life easier — and to avoid getting mad when there's really no reason for it. Differences of opinion, freely expressed, can help bring out the truth.

NO ONE IS
ALWAYS
RIGHT

To get the most important part of the story, a honeymoon—first or second—is a good idea.

Talking everything over with the wife or girl-friend is one thing the soldier probably took for granted be-

**TWO HEADS
ARE
BETTER**

fore he left home. They planned together the best way to paint the furniture, or what to buy a relative for his birthday; but that was not all they talked about. More serious matters got mixed up, and stronger feelings were sometimes aired in these chats.

**COMPARING
NOTES**

Aired is the word. Both people felt much better afterward, and that's why those "chews" were one of the things they both missed most, especially when they were first apart. They'll find they still make them feel better. Exchange is the only way to add up their combined experience and judgment. The fact that those experiences have been different just makes the value of adding them together so much greater. Why not get the exchange going in high gear *now*, by mail?

What have THEY been saying?

Other people in town, perhaps mostly people who don't have any really intimate companions, have always had substitutes for this intimate kind of talk. One of the substitutes is plain "gossip". It's a process no war can stop. The barracks of every armed service in the world hum with it—always have.

RUMOURS

But civilian tongue-waggers, not having brass hats or a sergeant to tear apart, will turn their attention to the sergeant's wife and her hat. The man who begins to hear the old pattern of civilian gossip should ask himself how much of the gossip he heard and re-told in the Service was accurate—hardly a bit. Is this inside dope from the home town gossips any better? Well, at least it's easier to check with the facts. Even if you never got around to asking Eisenhower if your favourite story on him was true, you do still have a chance to kill or confirm these home-made tales — mostly it's kill.

**SERVICE
HELP**

(There may be one or two men in any group who can't track these mischievous reports down to their satisfaction by means of personal letters and enquiries. They may not wish to discuss their problems with all comers; but it should be made clear that the Personal Counsellor, the Padre, their own Unit Welfare Officer

or (Divisional Officer can often help to resolve the difficulty.)

1939's Children — are they Children still?

There's another way things seem to have changed at home, especially to the older man. An expedition by his youngsters on roller-skates around the block used to be an event calling for prior approval from Dad. Now they are off to the "Golden Slipper" every other night, it almost seems—and till all hours—without so much as "By your leave?" It's hard to remember that they're years older now, that they have minds of their own — with a lot of things crammed into them that they'd never heard of in 1939. The "new" civilian with greying hair isn't going to get on better with "old" ones in bobby-socks, by ranting about their goings-on. No, that's too easy. They'll tell him (the truth) that he behaved in much the same way himself, when he was sixteen.

**YOUR
CHILDREN
HAVE BEEN
PROMOTED**

The War began very long ago — for those under 18

Look at it this way. There are men and women in the Services now, who when this war began were in public school—learning grammar and spelling. (Remember when?) Over a third of all their memories are of wartime.

For their younger brothers and sisters, memories dating from the time before Dad went away to war will be overlaid with a thousand and one newer impressions. Boys and girls are adaptable animals—they quickly learn to feed on whatever ideas are available—including their own.

Who has the Edge in Understanding?

Getting under the confident new armour some children seem to acquire in the absence of a parent will take time and patient effort. It's sometimes useful to remember that a son or daughter can't be treated exactly like a wayward rookie—any more than a father

WE'VE SEEN
BOTH SIDES

can be handled like a gruff old major. But it's hard for *them* to see things the veteran's way. After all they've always been civilians, they've never been fighters; whereas the veteran has been both. By rights he ought to be the more understanding of the two. He can see that his return is like adding a new rank in the family, and thrusting a new set of orders upon a going concern. It may take a bit of give-and-take to make it work. It'll be some time before the drill is down pat again.

Veteran at Home — "Has-been" or "Will-be"?

LOOK AHEAD

Some returning fathers and sons get mad when they think they have been disregarded by their families. Others realize that, for the children especially, it's the veteran who's the "newcomer" — and it's up to him to get acquainted. Then he will be reckoned with—as he will prefer—for what he *is*, not for what he *has been*. He can begin to plan what he "will be" by writing to his family about it *now*, and getting as many as possible of their ideas on their common future to put alongside his own. It may take time to agree on all the details. There will be Personal Counsellors, the Padre, Social Welfare officers and his own friends and officers with whom he can talk these plans over; that will help him make up his mind.

QUESTIONS

Do you know of any changes which have taken place in your home town; how would these affect your family?

Do you expect that the members of your family will have changed? How?

Will your return home help the situation? Have you discussed this in your letters home?

Will Canada seem as strange to us on return as the U.K. did on arrival; will we find a need for improvement? What are you doing to prepare for it?

Whose job is it to get used to these changes?

OLD FRIENDS - NEW FRIENDS 3

Nearly every man or woman in the Service has seen a movie some time or other showing the U.S. Marine Band in full dress uniform (with eight shiny Sousaphones in the front rank) leading a parade of smiling troops up Fifth Avenue. The air is full of ticker-tape and shredded phone-books; the announcer shouts above the din that these are "conquering heroes, homeward bound".

Who wants a Parade?

That's what it's like in the movies, but is it real? Is this what we want? Do civilians think that's what a war is all about? Not exactly. The people of every town in Canada are racking their brains to figure out just how this business of meeting the troop-trains should be done. That's not the only thing they're doing. They've often gone to a lot of trouble to prepare card-indexes of job opportunities, to allot house-building sites, to fix up a place where the boys can have some coffee and doughnuts when they get together—and they're doing a lot of other things too. But they still feel they should do something to meet the boat or train. That's as natural a feeling for the home folks, as the serviceman's inclination to duck in for a quick one when he runs into an old friend. As natural and about as harmless.

PARADE IS
JUST THE
BEGINNING

Some home towns may do differently, but to judge from past experience, the affairs may be like this: The troop train pulls in. A few civic officers make speeches. They don't say anything much that you couldn't guess in advance they would. (For that matter, do most servicemen say anything very startlingly original to their old friends?) But why complain? It may be better to let the official reception follow the pattern every-

HOW ABOUT
NO RECEPTION

body expects, than to come back to an empty station platform and be ignored. Some soldiers have had that happen, and they didn't like it.

KNOW OF A
BETTER WAY?

Maybe one of you can think of a better reception than either the speech-and-brass-band kind or the who-cares kind. If so, he has only to sell the idea to a few million people who now think a parade is the normal way to move a body of troops up the street. If he can't think of a better way for a whole town to say "Hello" it might be just as well to say a cheery "Hello!" back to them.

NOT WORDS
BUT
INTENTIONS
COUNT

After all, the first day we're back in Podunk, what matters is not the speeches and gestures the townspeople make. Some of them may be mildly annoying. The thing to remember is that they want very much to say a real welcome in the way that seems fitting and proper. If we'd never left the home town, chances are we'd feel much the same way they do. And we'll continue to feel much the same as they do about a lot of things from now on, even if we say them differently for a while.

THERE HAVE
BEEN
VETERANS
BEFORE

Well, after the speeches and perhaps a few presentations they may march the troops uptown for all to see; or more likely the mayor and officials will remember *their* return in 1919, and just let us and our folks sort each other out, and go off home to unload our packs. But the surprises and oddities provided by civilians don't disappear in a day. Let's follow a dis-chargee around for a bit....

CASUALTIES

Where have They all gone?

After Brown has been home a day or two, and the women-folk have got his suit out of moth-balls, chances are he'll poke his hands into his pockets and head for Main St., to see who's about. Before he's got to the pool-room, he'll see that Bill Macdonald's gas station is closed up. Wonder where Bill is? (He finds out at supper that Bill was listed missing at Ravenna).

He drops in next for one of Tommy's sodas — the best west of Montreal! But who's that in pale blue at the familiar bar? It's a woman! (It turns out Tommy's

been flying somewhere over the Pacific. When he goes to pay his check it's Mrs. Clark who takes it. (Mr. Clark discovered a year ago last March that his store could do without him, so he's looking after the medicines for the hospital attached to a big chemical plant — a regular town of a place!—that's been built fourteen miles down the line. Comes home on the bus on his off week-end, once a month.)

JOB
MIGRATION

Well, we are out of date! Better buy a copy of the Weekly Herald and catch up on the latest moves, anyway! Strange . . . don't see old Porter at his corner in back . . . and his desk is practically tidy! (Good afternoon Mr. Brown! Oh, Mr. Porter? Died of a heart attack shovelling snow last winter. No young lads about to help, you know . . . felt he had to get the papers delivered himself.")

NATURAL
CAUSES

So Brown makes the same discovery that a lot of repats are making on their first few strolls around town: there are a lot of missing faces—in the church choir, in the pool-room, at the poker table, at the skating rink and nearly everywhere you turn. Some of the old faces will reappear sooner or later. Some have turned toward work-benches in other towns from the Atlantic to the Pacific. And a few have disappeared altogether. Casualties, labour migration and the many needs of the war have made a lot of breaks in pre-war clubs and circles.

EFFECT ON
LOCAL
GROUPS

What puzzles Brown is that the civilians seem to take this pretty casually. He's forgotten that these disappearances have come one or two at a time, over a period of years. To the people at home it was possible to get used to a changing circle of friends by easy stages. But for him, just come home, the whole change is sudden. If Brown thinks the townspeople are callous about this, he should recall that probably he too would be taking most of the changes for granted by now, if he'd been at home all along.

IT WAS A
GRADUAL
CHANGE
TO THEM

How about new Friends?

As Doug Brown finishes his supper his mother remarks that some of the neighbours are coming in. This

is natural enough—he'd seen them all lots of times, the men at one end swapping tales about fishing, or the latest gossip about the goalie for the Canadiens; the women at the other, discussing heatedly the merits of cake recipes or the intricacies of needle-point.

NEW FRIENDS
MEAN NEW
INTERESTS

But tonight he gets a surprise. When the folks have found chairs, and the radio is turned on, gradually they stop talking and *listen* to it. He watches in surprise as they give their whole attention to a newspaperman, an Indian stevedore and a retired diplomat, who argue about the Reconstruction of Asia. It turns out that better conditions in the Far East have a lot to do with jobs in Canada. The folks spend a good part of the evening on that subject. Dad, for instance, tells about a similar discussion at a union meeting. This certainly isn't the way they used to think and talk! Oddly enough, though, Doug finds he likes it.

NEW
CONDITIONS
IMPOSE NEW
INTERESTS

After the guests have gone home, Doug's young sister (she's in High School now) answers his query this way: "Dad couldn't use gas any more for fishing trips, and he said hockey wasn't what it had been, what with most of the players in the services. Mother was too busy with Red Cross sewing to try many new cakes, even if she could get the sugar. And she wasn't doing fancy-work: it was bandages! At the sewing group she met Mrs. Cooper, from Saskatoon — they moved in across the street a couple of years ago and we got to know Betty Cooper at school. She always knew a lot about what was going on".

WAR IS NOT
WON ONLY IN
BATTLES

Betty said if our brothers were fighting for our right to speak our minds, we'd better all know a bit of what we were talking about—and voting for. "Dad agrees it was partly because the grown-ups didn't bother to check our own course—let alone the other fellows'—that we got into a jam in 1939 that we could only fight our way out of. Next time we'll watch where we're going. That means reading, listening, discussing and acting together on our conclusions. And *that*, Admiral, is the 'democracy' you've been risking your neck for, these last few years."

What did the War show us?

He finds a lot of his friends—at the shop, or in the bowling alley, or nearly anywhere he goes — have changed their tune in somewhat the same way. They're a little more serious than they used to be, more responsible, less ready to take either privileges or nuisances for granted. And the veteran notices this partly because, *he* too is more serious. New people, like the Coopers, account for some of the change, but even more noticeable is a mood among his old acquaintances—a feeling that a war compels one to share in a force that is really powerful and big and serious. Civilians at home can't be expected, he thinks, to feel this quite as strongly as the troops did, or even as the civilians in Britain or the U.S.S.R. did. But they too saw their responsibilities and freedoms more sharply during the war, and are wider awake and more eager for changes, just as he is himself.

WE SEE OUR
JOB MORE
CLEARLY
IN WAR

The trick is to keep that determination constant after the shooting has stopped—and to keep watch even when the sailing seems serene. Who is more likely to see the need for keeping watch over our future than those who've spent their last few years doing nothing but? In other words, who can be expected to share in managing this stretch of towns, fields, forests and lakes called Canada, if the Doug Browns won't? We'll have a chance to discuss *how* it is managed in another meeting.

CAN WE SEE
OUR JOB AS
CLEARLY IN
PEACE?

QUESTIONS

The changes experienced by the folks at home have been for the most part gradual. On the whole, they haven't had to act as quickly and decisively as one does in combat. Will they be able or willing to act quickly and decisively on a major issue? Do you raise big questions requiring firm and intelligent decisions in writing home?

Are civilians thinking beyond their own little interest in the community to national and international problems? Why do you think so?

Are they better informed on these questions than we are? How can we estimate? What is our next move on the basis of these answers?

4 HOUSING SHORTAGE

One of the surprises to many veterans on arrival is the housing shortage. Let's see what the problem is all about.

The situation is particularly bad in the larger cities of Canada. In many cases families are living in overcrowded quarters or in dilapidated dwellings which should have been torn down long ago. The man who has been overseas and in action feels that he shouldn't be faced on his return with the added difficulty of finding a decent place to live.

There are a number of things which contribute to this situation. The landlord who profits by overcrowding is not the sole villain—only an accomplice. In recent times we never have built enough new homes in Canada to take care of the natural increase of population. Partly that was because of heavy taxes on buildings, even before the war, and partly too, because of an inefficient way of carrying on building operations.

It takes 30,000 houses a year to take care of the population increase of Canadian towns and cities alone. It takes another 27,000 a year to replace the old homes as they become unfit to live in.

In the past 15 years we haven't built this number. During the war years, with both craftsmen and materials occupied overseas and in war projects we have built only a fraction of what we needed. The result is that thousands of families—civilian and service alike—are having to make their homes wherever they find room. A system of priorities on living quarters has been introduced in some of the most crowded cities. Some estimates place the shortage at 1,000,000 dwellings now; we'll have to build at least twice as fast as we did in 1939 to catch up in our lifetime.

BEFORE
THE WAR

NEEDS

Movement of workers to the areas where war materials are produced have taxed the existing facilities to the limit. Some cities have almost doubled their pre-war population. MIGRATION

Many groups have proposed quickly-built "temporary" houses. The difficulty is that no building that will stand Canadian winters can be really "temporary". Besides, with the shortage we face, *any* house that is built will be used for a generation, no matter what it is called. And there is more to housing than just houses. There is the location of shops, playgrounds and traffic to be considered. These are permanent.

Trailers, stores, gas stations, and all other types of buildings have been pressed into service. There are few larger homes which haven't opened any spare rooms they have to help out in the crisis. Housing registries and the government Emergency Shelter Control attempt to decide who needs living space most, where it is most scarce. But until materials are available in unlimited quantities and a large-scale housing and town-planning program gets into high gear, the situation will continue to be difficult for all Canadians. STOP-GAPS
SOLUTION
They should urge that this problem be tackled as a long-term one, not a patching one.

QUESTIONS

Do the folks at home know there has been a war on? Why do you think so?

Does the fact that Canada has not been bombed account for all the differences between Britain and Canada that you expect to find? What else?

Is life in Canada, comparatively speaking, just milk and honey? Why?

Have you heard anything about "Emergency Shelter Areas" in Canada? What are they? Why were they created?



Does Service Life Fit us for Civvy Work?

At about this point the former serviceman is beginning to realize that there is more of a trick to this business of becoming a civilian than he had at first thought. The fact of course is that while he may look like a civilian outside, inside he is still a soldier, or airman, or sailor.

SERVICE
HABITS
STICK

That's what causes much of the difficulty. It is hard for him to act like a civilian when he thinks like a serviceman and has many service habits.

One Canadian described his feelings about being a civilian again like this:

RESTLESSNESS

"When I first put on civilian clothes again I felt myself to be the centre of all eyes. It was much more strange and embarrassing than the first wearing of a uniform had ever been. It took all my powers of concentration, all my will power, to keep me at my tasks. It was not that I wanted to do anything else—I did not know exactly what I wanted to do but I did not want to do what I was doing . . . it is that terrible restlessness that possesses us like an evil spirit . . ."

This is not an unusual reaction. The break from service to civil life is bigger than it may seem from here.

Civilian life and work frequently lacks the variety many servicemen have become accustomed to. It is usually necessary to stay for long periods of time in the one place, see the same faces, and do the same things.

Service life had its share of boredom but it had bits of the opposite, too. At first there were new camps every few months, then new countries. There were risks to be taken. There was a wide variety of companions.

Having been in the forces also has its advantages as far as future work is concerned. Most of us know a lot more about getting along with people than we did. We have more self-discipline and self-reliance than before.

ADAPTABILITY

Many of us have picked up new skills. The fellow who thought he hadn't an ounce of mechanical ability can repair a faulty generator. The man who thought himself awkward with his hands can clear a mine-field in the dark.

What we are going to have to do is to take stock of ourselves, decide what we want to do for a living, and then go right after it.

How should we Choose our own Jobs?

For a long time now we have had all too many people telling us what to do. Suddenly the fighting is a thing of the past; someone is asking, of all things, what *we* want to do. It isn't easy to make a decision like that, especially when you have got out of the way of making decisions of that kind.

"But why," it is asked, "doesn't someone tell me what I am to do?"

The answer is that it is the individual's future, not the army's, which is at stake. Of course it would be simpler if someone were to pick a job for every man. But it would be no more satisfactory than having one person choose wives for everyone else.

IT'S YOUR
LIFE

In order to get a job in which one can be reasonably happy, it is necessary for each man to look over the whole field and decide what will fit his own talents and disposition best. That won't be easy. When it comes to jobs what is one man's meat is another's poison.

ONE MAN'S
MEAT—

A lot of servicemen never have had a civvy job and some don't want to go back to the ones they had. They will do well to investigate all possibilities rather than snap up the first thing that comes along. As we shall see in later discussion, there are more things that urgently need doing in Canada than men to do them.

LOOK OVER
THE FIELD—
IT HAS GROWN

If we can deploy ourselves to gain Full Employment, then each of us will *pick*—not just *take*—a job.

HELP IN
PICKING AN
OCCUPATION

The personnel counsellor and the Veterans Affairs officer will assist in all this. The final decision must be reached by the man himself; but he reaches it quicker with the counsellor's help. Once it is made, he may find that he will require further training or education before he actually goes to work. To reach a sound decision of this importance to the serviceman involves a methodical approach—that is the specialty of the counsellors provided by the Service.

All this may seem like beating-about-the-bush, but it is actually a case of looking-before-you-leap. And when it comes to easing your way into civilian life it is necessary to do a lot of looking in order that when you leap you may find a good place to land.

What is it like to do Civvy Work?

And once back on the job—what? From this distance it may seem that an eight-hour-day without buzz-bombs or booby-traps would be a picnic.

Not so fast! Civilian work can have its own variety of land-mines, as many former fighters have discovered.

HOURS MAY
SEEM LONG

When it comes to work, eight hours is longer than it sounds, especially when there are no long breaks and only one two-week leave in the year—without travelling time.

NO RESERVES

Furthermore, you are on the job steadily; you are never held in reserve. It takes a while to get used to this new routine—even though it is the one we left when he went into the forces.

IDEAS OF
SUCCESS
DIFFERENT

For the fellow who was born on the other side of the tracks, or who didn't marry the boss's daughter it takes a lot of luck and plenty of hard work to get ahead. Rightly or wrongly, success in civilian life generally means keeping the job and earning more money—two things to which the serviceman hasn't given a thought in years.

Some men find it difficult to take a job with less authority or less pay than they had in the service. A

Sergeant-Major or a Chief Petty Officer, to say nothing of a Colonel or a Group Captain, doesn't take kindly to the idea of having someone tell *him* precisely what to do for a change.

AUTHORITY

The pilot of a bomber isn't especially happy about having to take a twenty-five dollar a week job after having been in the big money for a couple of years. And after his high-tension life he may find it dull to sit at a desk.

PAY

He should remember that because a war came along precisely when he was ready to prove his ability does not mean he would have been less capable as a civilian; rather that he enters civil life with exceptional confidence in his ability and initiative. It's tested.

INITIATIVE

There is always room for the exercise of the qualities of the leader. In the Service, promotion was largely based on the display of leadership—so is it in civilian life, although one does not wear his prestige on his sleeve. In the Service, the dominant personality found outlets for initiative not only in his fighting job, but also in the organization of sports, the management of the canteen, the shaping of talents into a show. These things too are open to the enterprising civilian, no matter how slow-moving his eight-to-five o'clock job may at first seem to be.

It is just as well to face these facts now. It may take a while to get used to an eight-hour-a-day job. But remember it took a while for you to get used to the service, and you managed it okay.

It is through work that you can get back into the swing of things again. If you can put up with the little things which at first get under your skin you will find that the big ones will take care of themselves.

No one says that it will be easy. Nothing that is worth while ever is.

(NOTE: The problem of getting used to a peacetime job is one that each man or woman can tackle single-handed. The much bigger problem of ensuring sufficient peacetime jobs for all who will want them is one we must all tackle together; for that reason it is given a whole section in this course. Full employment—what it means, its difficulties and its opportunities—will be dealt with in Pamphlet III).

QUESTIONS

Is there a difference between the way a civilian thinks and acts and the way a serviceman does? What is it?

Will the effects of service life be lasting? Can you tell veterans from others of the older generation?

Will these new qualities help us in civil life? How?

Will the restlessness which is attributed to us make our settling down in civvy street difficult? Is dissatisfaction also a useful trait?

Have you decided what kind of job you want to do after discharge?

YES

(a) *Why did you choose this particular trade?*

(b) *Have you investigated current and future possibilities?*

NO

(a) *Do you know what facilities are available to help you decide?*

(b) *Have you some reason for not wishing to avail yourself of these facilities?*

Operational or combat time excepted, do you think that service life is easier than civil life?

What will you expect of your civilian jobs?



WHAT DOES IT ALL ADD UP TO FOR US?



Nobody expects to return to a country that is just one three-thousand-mile-long bed of roses. There will still be times when the going gets tough. We've named a few—warming up to household chores, new routines, and so on. They are going to be a little different from any a man has to contend with in a fighting Service—and it's a good idea to go on watching for the differences.

We've looked at some of the snags that a fellow who hadn't been warned about might trip over—in getting to know his folks better than he now knows his mates, buddies, chums, or what have you . . . in doing well on the job, in getting into a civilian community again.

SUMMARY
OF FIRST
PAMPHLET

In the Long Run

There will usually be somebody about who can't see further ahead than the end of his own rake. This bird will be bothered by the difficulties we've been talking about—will forever think he's been gypped, pushed around, badly done by, let down—by his family, his friends, his boss, his church, his town, his country. The man who can see a little further ahead knows that the scrap is often hottest when the opposition is about to retreat.

THE LONGER
VIEW

"The Skies are not cloudy ALL day!"

It's no use pretending that "there will never be heard a discouraging word." Discouragements come harder to the one who takes every point scored against him as if he had lost the championship. It's the team made up of individuals who *believe* they can win, *and know how they're going to try*, that gets places.

OPTIMISM:
BLIND
HOPE OR
FORESIGHT?

Canada needs every man and every woman who'll take the trouble to understand the rules of the game—and to study the possible plays under those rules. This requires an eye for the big jobs to be done, a belief that they can be done, and the patience to learn to do them.

Shoe-String Play

We learned (the hard way) that it's important to keep an eye on the tactics of one-time housepainters, editors and others, playing the corner-lot league in places thousands of miles away. There may even be a few right at home. We learned the cost when their doings threatened healthy activity everywhere—that it took group action to thwart devilish ambition. We need to learn, as groups, to stamp on any other Hitlers before they get a head start.

We know that one reason why fascism spread and flourished in the last two decades was that its real rottenness was not recognized by enough of us who were still free. Behind a camouflage of youths hiking and trains running on time—which we admire—the *real* campaign for world conquest was going on: racial prejudice was inflamed as a matter of policy, unions were smashed, good-will was sabotaged, thousands were brutally tortured, and — perhaps most typical — other thousands were “liquidated” as they tried to resist or to warn us of the danger. Trade unionists, teachers, clergymen, artists and writers were worst hit by the triple threat — flight, torture-starvation or a gnawing conscience—precisely because they were among the first to see through the camouflage. We must do more reconnaissance for freedom from now on.

The Huddle

The rulebook, the arena, and the teams have all been growing so much larger and more complicated lately, that we were for a time unable to see how the weight of inconspicuous players, as most of us are, could possibly count. The war has shown that the weight of all these ordinary folks—when they are regularly taken into the quarterback's confidence—can

ANTIDOTE
FOR
DICTATORS

TRAINED
OBSERVERS

USE YOUR
OWN EYES

be added together powerfully enough to bowl over the team whose world-governing leaders had told them no more than that they were the master-race.

We must continue to check our personal notions of the way things ought to go with the wider experience and differing notions of the rest of our team; this kind of check is the best insurance against another outbreak of war. There is no more room for the lone wolf in twentieth century peace than in twentieth century war. Next time we'll spot a Hitler when he makes his first moves, instead of hiding in each other's confusion until he's nearly won.

COMPARING
NOTES

Whether we like it or not — and some do, some don't—**IF THERE'S ANOTHER WAR, WE WILL HAVE OURSELVES TO BLAME**, unless we keep learning the lessons of this war.

War isn't started by Magic

One of the things that helped spread Hitler's brand of hypnotism, was the great number of hungry, dissatisfied people in Europe — people to whom jobs making guns were welcome, because jobs making butter weren't to be had. Doubtless a lot of them didn't foresee the final outcome of their work; but at least it paid wages. We can see that all workers have more to consider about their jobs than the pay.

NOT BY
BREAD ALONE

Have we other Jobs to do?

They learned, and we later did, that making war supplies can mean a job for everybody. The obvious question is: **WHY CAN'T EVERYBODY GET A JOB MAKING SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE?**

FULL
EMPLOYMENT

In the immediate future, the answer may be that our factories will first have to be altered for making peacetime goods. In the longer run, though, there's every reason to believe that there can be plenty of work for everyone who wants it. We can profit a great deal from our experience of the last couple of decades of depression and war, if we want to.

How we have kept everyone busy, and have kept the nations co-operating, will be the subject of our next group of talks.

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BOOK LIST FOR PA

A. C.L.E.S. GUIDES TO READING:

- No. 13. Child Psychology.
- No. 14. Marriage and Family Life.
- No. 15. Home Management.
- No. 21. Education for Today.
- No. 33. Psychology.

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Behind the Headlines. Pamphlet Series.



LOOKING AHEAD, a series of pamphlets dealing with Canadian post-war affairs, was prepared by the Wartime Information Board at the request of the Directors of Education of the three Services. The material is meant for *discussion* by servicemen and servicewomen waiting to go home. These pamphlets, like the regular *Canadian Affairs* which they supplement, have been compiled by members of the Armed Forces.

